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Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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53
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /083 W
---------- 024180
O 101125 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1474
INFO USDAO SAIGON NIACT IMMEDIATE
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8244

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS CB, VS
SUBJECT: THE 15 TH FANK BRIGADE RETREATS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOL TEL SENT ACTION NIACT IMMEDIATE SAIGON INFO AMEMB PHNOM PENH NIACT IMMEDIATE FROM CAN THO DTD MAY 10, 1973 RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0302

1. THE 15 TH FANK BRIGADE, APPORXIMATELY 700 STRONG, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE S-2, A LIEUTENANT, WAS DRIVEN AWAY FROM PHNOM DEN POSITIONS MAY 8. SHORT OF AMMUNITION, THE CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS ABANDONED THEIR POSITIONS UNDER WHAT MR IV COMMANDER, MG NGUYEN VINH
NGHI, DESCRIBED AS " VERY LIGHT KI" PRESSURE. THE UNIT HAS TEMPORARILY REGROUPED AT VS930717 AND VS936709 JUST WITHIN VIETNAMESE TERRITORY, AND PLANS TO RECROSS THE BORDER LATE MAY 10.

2. THE CAMBODIAN MR 2 COMMANDING GENERAL VISITED THE BRIGADE MAY 9 BRINGING WITH HIM A LTC CHAU BEN WHOM HE INSTALLED AS THE NEW BRIGADE COMMANDER. THE 15 TH CO WAS WOUNDEDIMAY 3 (CAN THO
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0274).

3. UNDER ORDERS FROM NGHI, 44 TH SPECIAL TACLCCAL ZONE COMMANDER, COL HOANG DUC NINH, PROVIDED THE FANK BRIGADE WITH " SEVERAL DAYS' SUPPLY" OF SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION. THE UNIT BROUGHT ALL ITS WEAPONS WHEN IT RETREATED. THE 15 TH IS SHORT OF FOOD, HOWEVER, BECAUSE IT HAS " NO FUNDS FOR PURCHASES IN VIET NAM," ACCORDING TO THE FANK LIAISON OFFICER AT CHI LANG.

4. THE MOVE OF THE DIMINISHED BRIGADE INTO VIETNAMESE TERRITORY IS IN APPARENT CONTRADICTION TO MG NGHI' S ORDER. IN REFUSING PERMISSION TO ENTER VIET NAM, HE URGED THE UNIT TO STAND AND FIGHT. WE HOPE THE AMMUNITION RESUPPLY AND THE PRESENCE OF A FIELD GRADE COMMANDER, WILL PUT THE BRIGADE BACK INTO ACTION.
WISNER UNQUOTE
BUNKER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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